

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

No. 3.]

WASHINGTON CITY, JANUARY 16, 1819.

[VOL. VII]

Printed and Published, every Saturday, by Lawrence, Wilson, & Co. at five dollars per annum.

Contents of this No. of the National Register.

ORIGINAL.—American Gallery of Portraits, No. 1, 33.—*Editor's Cabinet*—History of Congress, 47.—Delaplaine's Repository, 48.
SELECTED.—*Military Affairs*—Report of the Secretary of War concerning the Military Peace Establishment, 35.—*Manufactures, Commerce, and Navigation*—Prizes not to be sold at St. Bartholomews, 39.—Rapid sailing, 40.—*Literature*—Tragedy by John Howard Payne, 40.—Proceedings of Congress, 40.—*Voyages and Discoveries*—North Pole Expedition, 40.—*Banks*—Explanation from certain State Banks at Philadelphia, 47.

FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

American Gallery of Portraits—No. I.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

To draw in perfection the visible features of individual man, has at all times been considered an art of very difficult attainment: How much more difficult must it be to depict the intellectual traits of the human character? The writer knows not whether he is about to add to the thousand caricatures which have been propagated in relation to men and mind; but he is not afraid to assert the purity of his intentions. His object is to make his countrymen better acquainted with the remarkable personages of the times, and to pourtray them according to their true merits.

Every person in society, whether in private or in public life, presents himself for contemplation in two aspects: the first, as it regards his *reputation*; the second, as it respects his real *character*. The world in general is governed by the first, because the world in general is like the head of a drum, which only re-echoes the sounds that are produced from it by the dexterity of the drummer. Character can only be perceived by those to whom nature has given penetration and judgment, and with whom reputation passes for nothing if it is contradicted by the actions which constitute character. Not to advert to a more divine example, Socrates affords a striking illustration of the truth of these remarks. He was put to death by the Athenians from the evil report of his enemies, who framed for him an infamous reputation: but succeeding generations have done justice to his memory; and his *character*, presented to posterity in genuine colors, stands foremost among those of the sages of antiquity who are reputed the most virtuous and the most wise.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS is one of the few statesmen of America who have obtained, among their cotemporaries, a reputation nearly corresponding with their intrinsic characters. In his case, however, the latter has always been, in some degree, superior to the former. Whatever ground he oc-

cupies in the view of the public, it is wholly intellectual. He never attracted a single suffrage in his favor by the blandishment of manners or the graces of courtesy. Studious from his earliest youth, he continues to be so in his riper years; and his mental labors are astonishing, when we reflect that he is the practical organ of a department of government which is intrusted with the management of affairs of the first importance, both at home and abroad. The mind of Mr. Adams is strictly logical; and although he is evidently a considerable master of the rhetorical art, he is never inclined to use it except on extraordinary occasions. In every case that calls for the exercise of his judgment, he appears to seek alone for the facts and the rule of decision which leads to the proper conclusion. This cautious adherence to reason, this guarded aversion to the indulgence of feeling, has induced superficial politicians to pronounce him cold. There never was a more erroneous opinion. The secret of this apparent frigidity is, in truth, a strong sensibility, which has compelled Mr. Adams to resort to a mental discipline, from which he does not depart, lest he should be hurried into the regions of fancy, where there is neither anchorage nor pilot. A cold-minded man was never yet a wit; and we have heard several witty things attributed to him: an icy heart never won a friend; and it will not be denied that Mr. Adams has many and warm friends. His ambition, indeed, has been more to become an useful citizen than a pleasant companion; and hence the frivolous and the volatile, who look at affairs only on the surface, have not joined their voices in his praise. They should consider that knowledge is not acquired by trifling; and that an individual who cultivates the sentiment of patriotism in its fullest extent can have but little time to sacrifice to the graces.

Without being a courtier, Mr. Adams leans a good deal to the side of authority in government. It is this feature of his character which has rendered him hitherto rather unpopular with the republican party. But has this inclination been rightly understood? In a monarchy, he that inclines to authority in government, is commonly an enemy to the rights of man, and is justly liable to suspicion on the part of the friends of liberty. In the United States, authority means nothing more than the reign of the law. To a well-regulated mind the law of the land is the great rule of action; and the disregard of it is a certain sign of dissoluteness of thought. Too nice an adherence to the dictates of reason, nevertheless, will, in tu-

multuary periods, often convey to the senses of the mass of a people the idea of austerity, and even of aristocracy; because the thorny virtue of irreproachable rectitude pricks the consciences of those factious orators who mislead mankind, and whose political morality is measured solely by convenience. If, during sixteen years of his literary and public life, Mr. Adams supported the measures of administration which were deemed odious, we cannot, at least, accuse him of being a demagogue. He was the advocate of the empire of the law, in opposition to that wilderness of notions engendered by the fluctuations of the French Revolution; and it is worthy of grave consideration, whether the administrations of George Washington and John Adams, by the barrier which they opposed to the libertinism of the times, from 1789 to 1800, did not do as much service to the United States, as the labors of those whose efforts were impelled by an impetuous enthusiasm to a less constrained system of politics. Let those who have been the partizans of revolutionary France, through all the eventful changes of her destiny, examine themselves at this day with candor, and decide whether they were not guided more by passion than by principle? Who that admired the generous efforts of the French constituent assembly, could consistently continue their admiration of Gallic politics through twenty-five years of dreadful vicissitudes, including the predominancy of Robespierre and the despotism of Napoleon? There have been, notwithstanding, men who, amidst all these direful changes, have stood the fast, the devoted friends of French revolution, whichever way it rolled, and still called themselves the adherents of the cause of freedom!

Learning, as he did, to constitutional authority—a little strained, perhaps—Mr. Adams was, nevertheless, neither its tool nor the instrument of faction. When danger thickened around the republic, from both sides of the British channel, and the federal party was disposed to avail itself of the critical moment to embarrass Mr. Jefferson's administration, Mr. Adams separated himself from it; and, with a peculiar delicacy, as he could not express the false principles of the men who, in 1803, ruled Massachusetts, he resigned his seat in the Senate of the United States. At this crisis he neither hesitated nor looked back. He threw himself, unconditionally, into the bosom of the republican party, uncertain of his reception but confident in his motives.

From that period to the present day we have found him invariably laboring for his country. Whether we view him in the Senate, or at St. Petersburg; at Ghent, at London, or in the Department of State at Washington; the same devotion has uniformly been manifest in his labors.

With him, it is *always his country*. Is he prudent? Is he cautious? It is for his country. Is he bold and spirited? It is still for his country. If he has taken a stand in relation to the Independence of South America repugnant to the feelings of enthusiasts, it is because he does not act wholly for himself but for the nation. Is it allowable for an individual to endeavor to execute his own particular desires through the instrumentality of government? Certainly not. A man who acts for himself alone, may rush, at will, into all sorts of dangers. If he perishes, the evil of his conduct perishes with him. But a statesman who acts for a whole people, must, if he would act with propriety, curb his own propensities, and shape his conduct according to the interests of his fellow citizens. If it is natural for the Spanish Americans to look for countenance and succor from the only established free republic in the world, it is quite as natural that that republic, standing alone, should pursue measures calculated to preserve itself as a germinating and regenerating principle for other political communities. When Kings combine in "holy leagues," the solitary Republic of the West should guard its institutions with a sacred discretion, till population and improvement shall afford strength sufficient to enable it to dictate limits to the operations of arbitrary power. This discretion does not imply hostility to freedom; it tends, on the contrary, to give to it stability, and to inspire mankind with confidence in a form of government which tyrants in every age have said could not be rendered durable. Whenever any considerable portion of Spanish America shall demonstrate that it is unalterably united, and irrevocably determined to be independent, exhibiting, at the same time, internal resources adequate to sustain such a position, Mr. Adams, we predict, will be found as prompt as the loudest brawler to recognise it; and so much the more reliance may, in that case, be placed in his decision, as it will have been the result of calm consideration and not an ebullition of feeling or a Sempronian trick of intrigue.

If, however, caution has swayed him with respect to Spanish American affairs, he has not permitted himself to hesitate upon occasions where the positive rights of the United States have been concerned. In the negotiations with Spain, he has contended, in justice, for every dollar and every acre; and, with regard to the Seminole war, he has generously thrown himself, with the mighty shield of his talents, in the breach of opinion which exists in the community touching the proceedings of General Jackson in Florida, and nobly vindicates, upon irrefragable grounds, and at the peril of an opposing and active animosity, the military deportment of that intrepid and intelligent soldier, in the embarrass-

Repe-
jec-
Mi-
Sta-
law-
Co-

In
of Ro-
rectin-
early
ther a-
in the
States
ther a-
made

ing scenes which he had to encounter in that quarter.

To the other good qualities of Mr. Adams, may be added a partiality for learning, a respect for the productions of genius, and a disposition to encourage merit of every description. With his discriminating mind, his surprising and systematic industry, his considerate observation of men and things, his stores of knowledge, his regular and moral habits; he must have been, in any rank of life, among any class of citizens, a distinguished personage. He is a man who will not proceed without understanding his subject. He sees every thing; he examines every thing: he is, intellectually, every where present in the multiplicity of transactions confided to his superintendence. If some scribblers, conceiving themselves the levers which raise or depress, at pleasure, the opinions of the people to any point of political elevation, have scurrilously assailed him, and endeavored to paint for him a foul and false reputation, their dark and unnatural sketches have faded away before the light of his genius, as the mists of the valley disappear beneath the influence of the sun. These scribbling defamers, consistent in nothing but calumny, in attacking him betray the anomaly of their own mental organization: They decry the doctrine of hereditary succession, and yet they would make Mr. Adams the legitimate inheritor of the blemishes thrown upon his father's administration!

In fine, by whomsoever John Quincy Adams is intimately known, he will be respected. His character does not develop itself at once. His mind is like some of those statues and pictures of the masters of antiquity, which require much steady contemplation before all their beauties can be perceived; but they grow upon the eye of an attentive observer daily; until, identifying every excellency, assent is yielded to the superiority of those faculties which, at all times, and in every situation, have fixed the attention and won the esteem of eminent and enlightened men.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Report of the Secretary of War, upon the subject of the reduction of the expenses of the Military Peace Establishment of the United States; on a change in the ration established by law; and of a system for the establishment of a Commissariat for the Army.

Department of War, Dec. 11, 1818.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed the 17th April last, directing "the Secretary of War to report, at an early period of the next session of Congress, whether any, and if any what, reduction may be made in the military peace establishment of the United States, with safety to the public service; and whether any, and if any what, change ought to be made in the ration established by law, and in

the mode of issuing the same; and also to report a system for the establishment of a commissariat for the army," I have the honor to submit the following Report:

In order to form a correct opinion on a subject involving so many particulars as the expense of our military establishment, it will be necessary to consider it under distinct and proper heads. To ascertain, then, "whether any, and if any what, reductions may be made in the expenses of our military establishment," I propose to consider its number, organization, pay, and emoluments, and administration. To the one or the other of these heads all of its expenses may be traced; and, if they are greater than what they ought to be, we must search for the cause in the improper extent of the establishment—the excessive number of officers in proportion to the men—the extravagance of the pay or emoluments, or the want of proper responsibility and economy in its administration.

Pursuing the subject in the order in which it has been stated, the first question which offers itself for consideration is, whether our military establishment can be reduced "with safety to the public service," or can its expenditures be, with propriety, reduced, by reducing the army itself? It is obvious that, viewed in the abstract, few questions present so wide a field for observation, or are so well calculated to produce a great diversity of sentiment, as the one now proposed. Considered as an original question, it would involve in its discussion the political institutions of the country, its geographical position and character, the number and distance of our posts, and our relations with the Indian tribes, and the principal European powers. It is conceived, however, that a satisfactory view of it may be taken without discussing topics so extensive and indefinite.

The military establishments of 1802 and 1808, have been admitted, almost universally, to be sufficiently small. The latter, it is true, received an enlargement from the uncertain state of our foreign relations at that time; but the former was established at a period of profound quiet, (the commencement of Mr. Jefferson's administration,) and was professedly reduced, with a view to economy, to the smallest number then supposed to be consistent with the public safety. Assuming these as a standard, and comparing the present establishment, (taking into the comparison the increase of our country,) with them, a satisfactory opinion may be formed on a subject which otherwise might admit so great a diversity of opinion.

Our military peace establishment is limited, by the act of 1815, passed at the termination of the late war, to 10,000 men. The corps of engineers and ordnance, by that and a subsequent act, were retained as they then existed; and the President was directed to constitute the establishment of such portions of artillery, infantry, and riflemen, as he might judge proper. The general order of the 17th May, 1815, fixes the artillery at 3,200, the light artillery at 660, the infantry 5,440, and the rifle 660, privates and matrosses. Document A exhibits a statement of the military establishment, including the general staff, as at present organized; and B exhibits a similar view of those of 1802 and 1808: by a reference to which it will appear, that our military establishments, at the respective periods, taken in the order of their dates, present an aggregate of 3,323, 9,996, and 12,656. It is

obvious, that the establishment of 1808, compared with the then wealth and population of the country, the number and extent of military posts, is larger in proportion than the present; but the unsettled state of our relations with France and England, at that period, renders the comparison not entirely just. Passing, then, that of 1808, let us compare the establishment of 1802 with the present. To form a correct comparison, it will be necessary to compare the capacity and necessities of the country then, with those of the present time. Since that period our population has nearly doubled, and our wealth more than doubled. We have added Louisiana to our possessions, and with it a great extent of frontier, both maritime and inland. With the extension of our frontier and the increase of our commercial cities, our military posts and fortifications have been greatly multiplied. Document marked C exhibits the number and positions of posts in the year 1802, and document D those of the present time; by a reference to which, it will be seen that, at the former period, we had but 27 posts, the most remote of which was, to the north, at Mackinaw, and to the south, at Fort Stoddert, on Mobile river; but now we have 73, which occupy a line of frontier proportionally extended. On the Lakes, the Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, and Red river, our posts are now, or will be shortly, extended, for the protection of our trade and the preservation of the peace of the frontiers, to Green Bay, the mouths of the St. Peters, and the Yellow Stone River, Bellepoint, and Natchitoches. Document marked E exhibits a statement of the extent of the line of our frontier, inland and maritime, with the distance of some of the more remote posts from the seat of government, drawn up by Major Long, of the topographical engineers, from the most approved maps.

If, then, the military establishment of 1802 be assumed to be as small as was then consistent with the safety of the country, our present establishment, when we take into comparison the prodigious increase of wealth, population, extent of territory, number and distance of military posts, cannot be pronounced extravagant; but, on the contrary, after a fair and full comparison, that of the former period must, in proportion to the necessities and capacity of the country, be admitted to be quite as large as the present; and, on the assumption that the establishment of 1802 was as small as the public safety would then admit, a reduction of the expense of our present establishment cannot be made, with safety to the public service, by reducing the army. In coming to this conclusion I have not overlooked the maxim, that a large standing army is dangerous to the liberty of the country, and that our ultimate reliance for defence ought to be on the militia. Its most zealous advocate must, however, acknowledge that a standing army, to a limited extent, is necessary; and no good reason can be assigned why any should exist, but what will equally prove that the present is not too large. To consider the present army as dangerous to our liberty, partakes, it is conceived, more of timidity than wisdom. Not to insist on the character of the officers, who, as a body, are high-minded and honorable men, attached to the principles of freedom by education and reflection, what well founded apprehension can there be from an establishment distributed on so extended a frontier, with many thousand miles intervening between the extreme points occupied?

But the danger, it may be said, is not so much from its numbers, as a spirit hostile to liberty, by which it is supposed all regular armies are actuated. This observation is probably true, when applied to standing armies collected into large and powerful masses; but, dispersed as ours is, over so vast a surface, the danger, I conceive, is of an opposite character, that both officers and soldiers will lose their military habits and feelings by sliding gradually into those purely civil.

I proceed next to consider whether any reduction can be made with propriety by changing the organization, or by reducing the number, of officers of the line, or the staff, in proportion to the men. It is obvious that, as the officers are much more expensive in proportion to their numbers than the soldiers, that the pay of the army, in relation to its aggregate numbers, must be increased or diminished, in the increase or the diminution of the former. It is impossible to fix any absolute proportion between officers and men which will suit every country and every service; and the organization of different countries, and of different periods in the same country, has, accordingly, varied considerably. Our present organization, of which document marked A contains an exhibit, is probably as well, or better, adapted to the nature of our country and service than any other; as it seems to be the result of experience; for, by a reference to document marked B it will be seen, that it is nearly similar, with the exception of the general staff, in which the present is more extensive, to the organization of the military establishments of 1802 and 1808. It is believed that the proportion of officers of the line to the men will require no farther observations.

The staff, as organized by the act of the last session, combines simplicity with efficiency; and is considered to be superior to that of the periods to which I have reference. In estimating the expenses of the army, and particularly that of the staff, the two most expensive branches of it, the engineer and ordnance departments, ought not fairly to be included. Their duties are connected with the permanent preparation and defence of the country, and have so little reference to the existing establishment, that, if the army were reduced to a single regiment, no reduction could safely be made in either of them. To form a correct estimate of the duties of the other branches of the staff, and consequently the number of officers required, we must take into consideration not only the number of troops, but, what is equally essential, the number of posts and extent of country which they occupy. Were our military establishment reduced one half, it is obvious, that, if the same posts continued to be occupied which now are, the same number of officers, in the quartermaster's, commissary's, paymaster's, medical, and adjutant and inspector general's, departments, would be required.

To compare then, as is sometimes done, our staff with those of European armies assembled in large bodies, is manifestly unfair. The act of the last session, it is believed, has made all the reduction which ought to be attempted. It has rendered the staff efficient without making it expensive. Such a staff is not only indispensable to the efficiency of the army, but is also necessary to a proper economy in its disbursements; and should an attempt be made at retrenchment, by reducing the present number, it would, in its consequences, probably prove wasteful and extravagant.

In fact, no part of our military organization requires more attention in peace than the general staff. It is, in every service, invariably the last in attaining perfection; and, if neglected in peace, when there is leisure, it will be impossible, in the midst of the hurry and bustle of war, to bring it to perfection. It is in peace that it should receive a perfect organization, and that the officers should be trained to method and punctuality, so that at the commencement of a war, instead of creating anew, nothing more should be necessary than to give to it the necessary enlargement. In this country, particularly, the staff cannot be neglected with impunity. As difficult as its operations are in actual service every where, it has here to encounter great and peculiar impediments, from the extent of the country, the badness, and frequently the want of roads, and the sudden and unexpected calls which are often made on the militia. If it could be shown that the staff, in its present extent, was not necessary in peace, it would, with the view taken, be unwise to lop off any of its branches which would be necessary in actual service. With a defective staff we must carry on our military operations under great disadvantages, and be exposed, particularly at the commencement of a war, to great losses, embarrassments, and disasters.

As intimately connected with this part of the subject, it is proper to observe, that so many and such distant small posts as our service requires, not only add to the expense of the army, by rendering a more numerous staff necessary, but increase the price of almost every article of supply, and the difficulty of enforcing a proper responsibility and economy. To an army thus situated, the expenses and losses resulting from transportation alone constitute a considerable sum. Under the best management our army must be more expensive, even were our supplies equally cheap, than European armies collected in large bodies, in the midst of populous and wealthy communities. These observations are not made to justify an improper management, or to divert the attention of the house from so important a subject as the expense of our military establishment. They, in fact, ought to have an opposite effect; for, just in the same proportion that it is liable to be expensive, ought the attention and effort of the government to be roused to confine its expenses within the most moderate limits which may be practicable.

The next question which presents itself for consideration is, can the expenses of our military establishment be reduced, without injury to the public service, by reducing the pay and emoluments of the officers and soldiers? There is no class in the community whose compensation has advanced less, since the termination of the war of the revolution, than that of the officers and soldiers of our army. While money has depreciated more rapidly than at any other period, and the price of all of the necessities of life has advanced proportionably, their compensation has remained nearly stationary. The effects are severely felt by the subaltern officers. It requires the most rigid economy for them to subsist on their pay and emoluments. Documents marked F and G exhibit the pay and subsistence during the revolution, and as at present established; and document marked H exhibits the allowance of clothing, fuel, forage, transportation, quarters, waiters, stationery, and straw, at the termination of the revolu-

tionary war, and in 1802, 1815, and 1818. By a reference to those documents it will be seen, that, under most of the heads, the variation of the different periods has been very small, and that, on a comparison of the whole, the pay of an officer is not near equal now, if allowance is made for the depreciation of money, to what it was during the revolution: I will abstain from further remarks, as it must be obvious, from these statements, that the expense of our military establishment cannot be materially reduced without injury to the public service, by reducing the pay and emoluments of the officers and soldiers.

It only remains to consider, in relation to this part of the resolution of the House, whether the expense of our military establishment can be reduced by a proper attention to its administration, or by a more rigid enforcement of responsibility and economy. Our military establishment is doubtless susceptible of great improvement in its administration. The field is extensive, and the attention of the government has not heretofore been so strongly directed towards it, as its importance deserves. Here all savings are real gain, not only in a monied, but a moral and political point of view. An inefficient administration, without economy or responsibility, not only exhausts the public resources, but strongly tends to contaminate the moral and political principles of the officers who are charged with the disbursements of the army. To introduce, however, a high state of economy and responsibility in the management of a subject so extensive and complicated as our military establishment, is a task of great difficulty, and requires not only a perfect organization of the department charged with it, but a continued energetic and judicious enforcement of the laws and regulations established for its government. The organization is the proper sphere of legislation, as the application of the laws and regulations is that of administration. The former has done all, or nearly all, that can be done. It is believed that the organization of the War Department, as well as the general staff of the army, is not susceptible of much improvement. The act of the last session regulating the staff has not only made important savings in the expenses of the army, but has given both to the department and the staff a much more efficient organization than they ever before had. Every department of the army charged with disbursements, has now a proper head, who, under the laws and regulations, is responsible for its administration. The head of the department is thus freed from detail, and has leisure to inspect and control the whole of the disbursements. Much time and reflection will be required to bring the system into complete operation, and to derive from it all the advantages which ought to be expected. The extent of the saving which may result from it can only be ascertained by time and experience; but, with an attentive and vigorous administration, it doubtless will be considerable. In war, it will be much more difficult to enforce economy and responsibility; but with a system well organized, and with officers trained to method and punctuality, much of the waste and frauds, which would otherwise take place in war, will be prevented. In peace there can be no insuperable difficulty in attaining a high degree of responsibility and economy. The mere monied responsibility, or that of purchases and disbursements, will be easily enforced. The public now

sustains much greater losses in the waste and improper use of public property than in its monied transactions. In our military establishment, responsibility in the latter is well checked, and not badly enforced. The accounts are rendered with considerable punctuality, and are promptly settled; and even neglect or misapplication of public funds, by the disbursing officers, are not often accompanied with ultimate losses, as they are under bonds for the faithful discharge of their duties. Accountability, as it regards the public property, is much more difficult, and has heretofore been much less complete. Returns of property in many cases, particularly in the medical department, have rarely been required; and even where they have been, they have not been made with punctuality. It cannot be doubted but what the public has sustained very considerable damage from this want of accountability. Every article of public property, even the smallest, ought, if possible, to be in charge of some person, who should be responsible for it. It will be difficult to attain this degree of perfection; but it is hoped, by making each of the subordinate departments of the War Department liable for the property in its charge, a very considerable improvement and reduction of expenses will be made.

On the quality of the ration, and the system of supplying and issuing it, which I propose next to consider, the health, comfort, and efficiency, of the army mainly depend. Too much care cannot be bestowed on these important subjects; for, let the military system be ever so perfect in other particulars, any considerable deficiency in these must, in all great military operations, expose an army to the greatest disasters. All human efforts must, of necessity, be limited by the means of sustenance. Food sustains the immense machinery of war, and gives the impulse to all its operations; and if this essential be withdrawn, even for a few days, the whole must cease to act. No absolute standard can be fixed, as it regards either the quantity or quality of the ration. These must vary, according to the habits and products of different countries. The great objects are, first and mainly, to sustain the health and spirit of the troops; and the next, to do it with the least possible expense. The system which effects these in the greatest degree, is the most perfect. The ration, as established by the act of the 16th March, 1802, experience proves to be ample in quantity, but not of the quality best calculated to secure either health or economy. It consists of eighteen ounces of bread, or flour, one pound and a quarter of beef, or three-quarters of a pound of pork, one gill of rum, brandy, or whiskey, and at the rate of two quarts of salt, four quarts of vinegar, four pounds of soap, and one pound and a half of candles, to every hundred rations.

The objections to it in relation to the health of the army, are fully stated in a report of the Surgeon General to the War Department, (marked 1) which I would respectfully annex as a part of this report. Under this view of the subject more need not be added, except to urge its importance, both on the score of humanity and policy.

Our people, even the poorest, being accustomed to a plentiful mode of living, require, to preserve their health, a continuation, in a considerable degree, of the same habits of life in a camp; and a sudden and great departure from it subjects them, as is proved by experience, to great mortality. Our losses in the late and revolutionary

wars, from this cause, were probably much greater than from the sword. However well qualified for war in other respects, in the mere capacity of bearing privations we are inferior to most nations. An American would starve on what a Tartar would live on with comfort. In fact, barbarous and oppressed nations have, in this particular, a striking advantage, which, however, ought to be much more than compensated by the skill and resources of a free and civilized people. If, however, such a people want the skill and spirit to direct its resources to its defence, the very wealth, by which it ought to defend itself, becomes the motive for invasion and conquest. Besides, there is something shocking to the feelings, that, in a country of plenty beyond all others, in a country which ordinarily, is so careful of the happiness and life of the meanest of its citizens, its brave defenders, who are not only ready, but anxious, to expose their lives for the safety and glory of their country, should, through a defective system of supply, be permitted almost to starve, or to perish by the poison of unwholesome food, as has frequently been the case. If it could be supposed that these considerations are not sufficient to excite the most anxious care on this subject, we ought to remember that nothing adds more to the expense of military operations, or exposes more to its disasters, than the sickness and mortality which result from defective or unwholesome supplies. Impressed with this view of the subject, considerable changes have been made in the ration, under the authority of the 8th section of the act regulating the staff of the army, passed at the last session of Congress. The vegetable part of the ration has been much increased. Twice a week, a half allowance of meat, with a suitable quantity of peas or beans, is directed to be issued. Fresh meat has also been substituted, twice a week, for salted. In the southern division, bacon and kiln dried Indian corn meal have been, to a certain extent, substituted for pork and wheat flour. In addition, orders have been given, at all the permanent posts, where it can be done, to cultivate a sufficient supply of ordinary garden vegetables for the use of the troops; and, at the posts remote from the settled parts of the country, the order is extended to the cultivation of corn, and to the supply of the meat part of the ration, both to avoid the expense of distant and expensive transportation, and to secure, at all times, a supply within the posts themselves.

In addition to these changes, I am of opinion the spirit part of the ration, as a regular issue, ought to be dispensed with; and such appears to be the opinion of most of the officers of the army. It both produces and perpetuates habits of intemperance, destructive alike to the health and moral and physical energy of the soldiers. The spirit ought to be placed in depot, and be issued occasionally, under the direction of the commander. Thus used, its noxious effects would be avoided, and the troops, when great efforts were necessary, would, by a judicious use, derive important benefits from it. Molasses, beer and cider, according to circumstances, might be used as substitutes. The substitution of bacon and kiln-dried corn meal, in the southern division, will have, it is believed, valuable effects. They are both much more congenial to the habits of the people in that section of our country. Corn meal has another, and, in my opinion, great and almost decisive advantage; it requires so little art to prepare it for

use. It is not easy to make good bread of wheat flour, while it is almost impossible to make bad of that of Indian corn. Besides, wheat is much more liable to be damaged than the Indian corn, for the latter is better protected against disease and the effects of bad seasons in time of harvest than any other grain; and, when injured, the good is easily separated from the bad. Experience proves it to be not less nutritious than wheat or any other grain. Parched corn constitutes the principal food of an Indian warrior; and such are its nutritious qualities, that they can support long and fatiguing marches on it alone.

I next proceed to consider the system of supplying the army with provisions, or the establishment of a commissariat, and as they are connected in their nature, I propose to consider that part of the resolution in relation to a commissariat, and the mode of issuing the rations, at the same time.

The system established, at the last session, will, in time of peace, be adequate to the cheap and certain supply of the army. The act provides for the appointment of a commissary general, and as many assistants as the service may require, and authorizes the President to assign to them their duties in purchasing and issuing rations. It also directs that the ordinary supplies of the army should be purchased on contracts to be made by the commissary general, and to be delivered, on inspection, in the bulk, at such places as shall be stipulated in the contract. Document marked J contains the rules and regulations which have been established by order of the President, and presents the operation of the system in detail. It is believed that it is as well guarded against fraud, as any other department of our military supplies; and, judging from the contracts already formed under it, will, when improved by experience, probably make a very considerable saving. It would improve the system, to authorize the appointment of two deputy commissaries, one for each division, with the pay, rank, and emoluments, of major of infantry, to be taken from the line or from citizens, and so to amend the act of the last session, as to authorize the President to appoint the assistant commissaries, either from the line, or citizens. When the assistant commissary is not taken from the line, to make his pay equal to that of a subaltern appointed from the line, it ought to be \$50 per month, with two rations a day. It should be the duty of the deputy commissaries to perform such service as the commissary general might prescribe, and particularly to inspect the principal depots, and, in cases of necessity, to make the necessary purchases. When a suitable subaltern cannot be had, or when his services are necessary in the line, the power proposed to be vested in the President, to select from citizens, would be important. It is not believed that any other alteration would be necessary in peace; but the system would require great enlargement in war, to render it sufficiently energetic to meet the many vicissitudes incidental to the operations of war.

It would then be necessary to divide the system into two divisions, one for purchasing and the other for issuing of rations, with as many deputy commissaries of purchases and issues, as there may be armies and military districts, to whom ought to be added a suitable number of assistants. The basis of the system ought, in war, to be the same as is now established. The ordinary supplies ought to be by contract on public proposals.

By a judicious collection of provisions at proper depots, combined with an active and energetic system of transportation, it would be seldom necessary to resort to any other mode of purchasing. To provide, however, for contingencies, the purchasing department ought to be efficiently organized, and a branch of it, as already stated, attached to each army and military department. As it is the means to be resorted to in cases of necessity, it ought to possess those high and discretionary powers which do not admit of exact control. It is in its nature liable to many abuses, and, to prevent them from being great, more efficient regulations and checks are required than in any other branch of the general staff.

The defects of the mere contract system are so universally acknowledged by those who have experienced its operation in the late war, that it cannot be necessary to make many observations in relation to it. Nothing can appear more absurd, than that the success of the most important military relations, on which the very fate of the country may depend, should ultimately rest on men, who are subject to no military responsibility, and on whom there is no other hold than the penalty of a bond. When we add to this observation that it is often the interest of a contractor to fail, at the most critical juncture, when the means of supply become the most expensive, it seems strange that the system should have been continued for a single campaign. It may be said, that, when the contractor fails, the commander has a right to purchase at his risk, by which the disasters, which naturally result from a failure, may be avoided. The observation is more specious than solid. If on failure of the contractor there existed a well organized system for purchasing the supplies, there would be some truth in it: but, without such a system, without depots of provisions, and with the funds intended for the supply of the army, perhaps, in the hands of the contractor, his failure must generally be fatal to a campaign. It is believed that a well organized commissariat, whose ordinary supplies are obtained by contract founded on public notice, possesses (besides those peculiar to itself) all the advantages fairly attributable to the system of issuing rations by contract. It is equally guarded against fraud, and its purchases can be made on terms more advantageous. A considerable objection to the system of issuing the ration by contract, is, that the merchants and capitalists are deterred from bidding, by the hazard of issuing the ration; and thus the sphere of competition is contracted, and the contracts for supplying the army often thrown into the hands of adventurers. This objection is avoided under the present system, by which the ration will be cheaply supplied, and the danger of failure almost wholly removed.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Manufactures, Commerce, and Navigation.

A letter from Copenhagen states—"It is positively known that the Swedish government has renewed the orders already given to the governor of the Island of St. Bartholomew not to permit privateers of governments not acknowledged, to sell their captures in that island. It is even asserted, that as these proceedings have been con-

tinued, the governor is called upon to justify his conduct."

From the Providence American.

The ship *Morning Star*, Wheaton, of this port, lately arrived at New Orleans, is said to have made the shortest passage ever known from New York to the Balize. The following is a summary from her journal:

	Hours
From Sandy Hook to the Hole in the Wall,	120
Lying to, with a gale at West,	48
From Hole in the Wall up with Havana,	48
From off Havana to the Balize,	76

292

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

AMERICAN GENIUS IN LONDON.

A new tragedy, by John Howard Payne, Esq. is offered for rehearsal at Drury Lane Theatre, London. The subject is the Judgment of Brutus, condemning his son; and report speaks very well of the piece.

Congress of the United States.

SENATE.

Friday, January 8.

Among the petitions presented to-day, was one by John Mason and others, of Georgetown, praying the repeal of the act which exempts the city of Washington from taxes for county purposes.

The motion made by Mr. Johnson, on the 9th ultimo, to call on the Executive for the correspondence respecting the cession of the Floridas, was this day withdrawn, by him, on being called up, his object having been attained by the communications subsequently made by the President.

Mr. Johnson, from the committee on the public lands, reported a bill for adjusting the claims to land, and for establishing land offices in the districts east of the island of Orleans, which was read.

Mr. Goldsborough, agreeably to notice, obtained leave and introduced a bill to amend the charter of the city of Washington, which was read.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the more convenient organization of the courts of the United States; and, without deciding any question, it was postponed to Monday.

The act for the relief of James H. Clark was read the second time.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the bill providing for the erection of a monument over the remains of general George Washington, where they now lie.

Mr. Barbour moved that the bill be recommitted, with instructions to report a bill appropriating money for the erection of an equestrian statue of general Washington, in conformity with the resolution of Congress of 1783.

[This resolution was passed on the 7th of August, 1783, and directs substantially that an equestrian statue of bronze be erected at the seat of government; that the general be represented in a Roman dress, holding a truncheon in his right hand, his head encircled with a laurel wreath; that the pedestal be of marble, on which to be represented in relief the following principal events of the war in which general Washington commanded in person, viz: the evacuation of Boston; the capture of the Hessians at Trenton; the battle of Princeton; the action at Monmouth; and

the surrender of York. The resolution directed also the inscriptions; that it shall be executed by the best artists, &c. &c.]

The motion produced a short debate, and was finally decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Crittenden, Daggett, Eaton, Edwards, Forsyth, Frémont, Gaillard, Goldsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Lenke, Macon, Mellen, Merrill, Otis, Palmer, Sanford, Stokes, Storer, Tait, Talbot, Taylor, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Penn.—30.
NAYS—Messrs. Lacey, Morrow, Noble, Roberts, Ruggles, Smith.—6.

Mr. Talbot, from the committee on finance, reported a bill supplementary to the act concerning the coasting trade, which was read.

The President communicated three several reports from the Secretary of the Navy, comprehending contracts with the Navy Commissioners, the names and salaries of clerks in that office, and the expenditure and application of moneys in that department.

The President also communicated a letter from Wm. Lambert, of Washington, transmitting fifty copies of abstracts of calculations for ascertaining the longitude of the Capitol, from Greenwich observatory.

Monday, January 11.

Mr. Sanford submitted the following motion:

Resolved, That the attorney general procure and lay before the Senate, at the commencement of their next session, accurate lists of all the causes which may be depending, on the day of in the several district and circuit courts, and in the supreme court of the United States, distinguishing therein civil and criminal cases, suits between citizens of different states; suits to which the United States are parties; original causes and causes removed by appeal or writ of error; with times of the commencement of the suits in the several courts; and such other statements or explanations as may appear to him proper, to exhibit the actual state and amount of the business depending in those several courts.

Mr. Otis submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate any information in his possession, and which, in his opinion, the public interest may permit to be disclosed, relating to the seizure and detention of the property of American citizens, by the government of the island of Hayti, and the statement of any negotiation, or attempts at negotiation, to procure restitution.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the report of the military committee, to whom an inquiry into the subject had been referred, declaring it inexpedient to make any provision by law for clothing the army in articles of domestic manufacture; inasmuch as, by a regulation of the War Department, a preference is now given to domestic fabrics in clothing the army, in cases where they can be procured on reasonable terms.

Mr. Ruggles moved to recommit the report to the committee on military affairs, "with instructions to report a bill to authorize and require the Secretary of War to supply the army of the United States with clothing of domestic manufacture, in all cases where the same can be procured of suitable quality, and on terms equal, (exclusive of the cost of transportation) to that of foreign manufacture."

Some discussion took place on this motion, which resulted in the postponement of the subject to Friday.

The Senate next resumed the consideration of the bill authorizing the territory of Alabama to form a state government, &c.

The question pending was, on a motion made by Mr. Leake, when the subject was up before, to amend the bill by altering the boundary proposed in the bill for the new state, so as to transfer to the state of Mississippi all the territory west of Mobile bay and Tombigbee river, up to the Cotton Gin Port, which motion Mr. L. when he submitted it, supported in a speech of considerable length.

He was replied to to-day, succinctly, but comprehensively, by Mr. Tait; after which the question was decided against the amendment, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Johnson, Leake, and Williams, of Mississippi.—3.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Crittenden, Daggett, Dickerson, Eaton, Eppes, Forsyth, Fromentin, Gaillard, Horsey, Hunter, King, Laeock, Mason, Mellen, Morrill, Morrow, Otis, Palmer, Roberts, Ruggles, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Tait, Talbot, Taylor, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Tennessee.—32.

Mr. Leake then moved to amend the bill in the section defining the boundary, so as to make the line run "along the line established by an act of the assembly of the Mississippi territory, between the counties of Wayne, Green, and Jackson, on the one side, and the counties of Washington, Baldwin, and Mobile, on the other."

This question was decided by yeas and nays in the negative by the same vote, except that Mr. Williams, of Tennessee, voted in the affirmative, and Mr. Johnson in the negative.

The bill was then proceeded through and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill prescribing the mode of commencing, prosecuting, and deciding controversies between two or more states, was, on motion of Mr. Crittenden, recommitted to the committee that reported it.

Tuesday, January 12.

Amongst other petitions presented this morning, was one by Mr. Roberts, from Alexander McCormick, of the city of Washington, praying indemnification for losses sustained by the destruction of his property by the enemy, in the invasion of August, 1814.

Mr. Burrill, from the committee on the judiciary, to whom was recommitted the bill prescribing the mode of commencing, prosecuting, and deciding, controversies between two or more states, reported the same with an amendment, not affecting the principle of the bill.

Mr. Roberts, from the committee of claims, made a report on the petition of John Clark, accompanied by a bill for his relief, which was read.

Mr. Tichenor submitted a motion to call on the executive, for a statement of the measures which have been taken to collect the balances stated to be due from the supervisors and collectors of the old direct tax of two millions; also, a statement of the balances due from the officers of the old internal revenue; the names of the persons intrusted with the collection of said debts, the sums by them collected, the time when collected, &c.

The engrossed bill, to enable the people of the Alabama territory to form a state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union, on an equal footing with the original states, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

Mr. Morrow, from the committee on public lands, reported a bill providing for a grant of

land for the seat of government of the state of Mississippi, and for the support of a seminary of learning within the said state; which was read.

The motion submitted yesterday by Mr. Otis, was taken up and agreed to; and,

The motion offered yesterday by Mr. Sanford, was postponed to Monday next.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by his private secretary, transmitting from the War Department a statement of the effective force of the army; of the different posts and garrisons where distributed; the number of artillerymen; the number and calibre of ordnance, &c. agreeably to the resolution of the Senate of the 5th inst.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill further to suspend, (until the 31st day of March, in the year 1820,) the sale or forfeiture of lands for failure in completing the payments thereon.

Mr. Noble moved to amend the bill, by inserting a provision "that on the instalments which shall become due before the 31st of March, 1820, interest shall not be charged, except from the time they became due until paid; but, on failure to pay the said instalments on the said 31st of March, 1820, interest shall be charged thereon, in conformity with the provisions heretofore in force, from the date of the purchase."

This motion was decided in the negative, by yeas and nays, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Edwards, Morrill, Noble, Ruggles, Taylor, Thomas, Williams, of Mississippi.—7.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Crittenden, Daggett, Dickerson, Eaton, Forsyth, Gaillard, Goldsborough, Hanson, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Laeock, Leake, Mason, Mellen, Morrow, Otis, Roberts, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Storer, Talbot, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Tennessee.—29.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The president communicated, from the Secretary of the Navy, the annual statements of the United States' stock and bank stock belonging to the navy pension fund; abstract of warrants drawn on that fund, and a list of the navy pensioners, &c.

Wednesday, January 13.

Mr. Goldsborough, from the committee of claims made an unfavorable report on the petition of Richard Bland Lee, praying additional compensation for his services as Commissioner of Claims.

The joint resolution directing the distribution of Seybert's Statistics, was taken up and ordered to a third reading.

The resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Tichenor, was taken up and agreed to.

The bill to suspend for a further limited time the sale or forfeiture of lands, for failure in making the payments, was read the third time, passed and sent to the other House for concurrence.

The bill from the other House, for the relief of Dr. Mottrom Ball, was read the third time and passed.

The President communicated to the Senate a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting the annual statement of the expenditure and application of moneys drawn from the Treasury by the Secretary of War, for the military establishment during the last fiscal year.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, so as to produce an uniform mode (by districts) throughout the several states, of electing electors of President and Vice-Presi-

dent of the United States, and Representatives to Congress.

The resolution was elaborately supported by Mr. Dickerson, and opposed at considerable length by Mr. Barbour and Mr. Forsyth.

The question was then taken on ordering the resolution to be engrossed for a third reading, and decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Burrill, Crittenden, Dickerson, Eaton, Edwards, Fromentin, Goldsborough, Hunter, Johnson, King, Laeock, Macon, Mellen, Morrill, Morrow, Noble, Otis, Palmer, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Storer, Talbot, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Mississippi, Williams, of Ten.—23.
NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Daggett, Eppes, Forsyth, Gaillard, Horsey, Leake, Roberts, Ruggles, Tait, Taylor.—11.

Thursday, January 14.

Mr. Williams, of Tennessee, reported a bill for the relief of John A. Dix; which was read.

The report on the petition of R. B. Lee, was taken up and agreed to.

Mr. Forsyth offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prescribing by law the mode of quartering soldiers during war in the houses of citizens when the public exigencies may make it necessary, and the mode by which private property may be taken for public use, designating particularly by whose orders property may be taken, the manner of ascertaining its value, and the mode by which the owner shall receive with the least possible delay the just compensation for the same to which he is entitled by the constitution of the United States.

Mr. Tait reported a bill for the relief of J. B. Timberlake.

The bill concerning the organization of the courts of the United States, for the establishing of a district supreme court, and the appointment of a new circuit judge, was taken up.

After a debate, the question was taken on Mr. Roberts' motion, to recommit the bill with instructions so to amend it as to provide for the appointment of one or more additional justices, and so to alter the laws as to provide for the speedy administration of justice in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee—and decided in the negative, as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Dickerson, Eppes, Forsyth, Laeock, Macon, Noble, Roberts, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Taylor.—11.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Burrill, Crittenden, Daggett, Eaton, Edwards, Fromentin, Gaillard, Goldsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Leake, Mellen, Morrill, Morrow, Otis, Palmer, Ruggles, Storer, Tait, Talbot, Thomas, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Miss. Williams, of Ten.—23.

The question was then taken on ordering the said bill to a third reading, and decided as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Burrill, Crittenden, Daggett, Eaton, Edwards, Forsyth, Fromentin, Gaillard, Goldsborough, Horsey, Hunter, Johnson, King, Leake, Mellen, Morrow, Otis, Ruggles, Storer, Tait, Talbot, Tichenor, Van Dyke, Williams, of Miss. Williams, of Ten.—23.

NAYS.—Messrs. Barbour, Dickerson, Eppes, Laeock, Macon, Morrill, Noble, Palmer, Roberts, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Taylor, Thomas.—14.

So the bill was ordered to a third reading.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, January 8.

Mr. Robertson, from the committee on private claims, reported a bill for the relief of Daniel Ross; and

Mr. Tucker, of Va. from the committee on roads and canals, reported a bill to appropriate a fund for internal improvements; which bills were twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Wilkin, the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims were directed to inquire into the expediency of making provision for paying to the assignee of John Carman a quartermaster's certificate of 1782, for 209 dollars, with interest.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Thomas Hall Jervey, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. H. Nelson in the chair, on the bill making appropriations for the military establishment for the year 1819. The committee proceeded in filing up the blanks of the bill, receiving from Mr. Smith, of Md. chairman of the committee of ways and means, explanations of the different appropriations which he moved to insert in the bill. Having gone through the bill,

The committee next took up the bill, "concerning the military establishment of the United States."

[The first section of this bill provides that, in addition to the present officers of the corps of engineers, that corps shall consist of one brigadier general, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, two captains, four first and four second lieutenants, to receive the same pay and emoluments as officers of the same grade in the corps of ordnance.]

Before the committee had gone through the bill, it agreed, on the motion of Mr. Bassett, and after some discussion of the question, to rise and report progress.

The committee rose accordingly, and reported the appropriation bill as it had been filled up and amended, and obtained leave to sit again on the unfinished bill.

The House then concurred in all the amendments to the appropriation bill, except that which appropriates ten thousand dollars for extra pay for soldiers employed in the construction and repair of military roads.

On concurring in this appropriation, a debate took place which continued until a late hour, and in which Messrs. Pitkin, Storrs, Mercer, Smith, of Md. Mills, Lowndes, Tucker, of Va. and Poin-dexter, took part.

Before deciding the question, and after once refusing to lay the bill on the table, and rejecting two or three different motions to adjourn,

The bill was laid on the table; and
The house adjourned to Monday.

Monday, January 11.

Mr. Sergeant, from the committee on Roads and Canals, to which was recommended a bill authorizing the subscription of stock in the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, reported the same without amendment, which was committed to a committee of the whole.

The Speaker laid before the House of Representatives a letter from William Lambert, accompanying 200 copies of Abstracts of Calculations to ascertain the longitude of the Capitol, in the City of Washington.

The Speaker also laid before the House three letters from the Secretary of the Navy, enclosing a statement of contracts made by the Commissioners of the Navy, during the year 1818; a statement containing the names and salaries of the clerks employed in the Navy Department, during the year 1818; and a statement of the expenditures and application of the moneys drawn from

the Treasury on account of the Navy, during the year ending on the 30th September, 1818, and of the unexpended balances of former appropriations, remaining in the Treasury on the 1st October, 1818; which were ordered to lie on the table.

The engrossed bill "for the relief of Daniel Moss," was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The House, according to the order of the day, resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Establishment during the year 1819.

The question was stated on the amendment made in committee of the whole, taking the sum of 10,000 dollars from the general appropriation for the Quarter Master's Department, and inserting the same as a specific appropriation for extra pay to soldiers employed in the construction and repairs of Military Roads.

Mr. Beecher moved to amend the amendment so as to strike out the words in *Italic*, and insert in lieu thereof the words "*working on*."

This motion was negatived—87 to 65.

Mr. Smyth, of Va then moved to amend the amendment so as to introduce, after the words construction and repairs of roads, &c. the words, "when necessary for the movement of the army, or any detachment thereof." This motion was negatived by a large majority.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, then moved to strike out the word "construction" and insert the words "working on" in lieu of it, with a view to obviating the objections of those who were opposed to the use of the word 'construction,' as possibly comprehending the right for that purpose to take private property; which was negatived by a large majority.

After a long debate on the main question, and on the amendments thereto, in which Messrs. Lincoln, Beecher, Pindall, Alex. Smith, Fuller, Nelson, Miller, Rhea, Barbour, Lowndes, and Hopkinson, took part, the question on the main amendment was taken by Yeas and Nays; when there were

For the amendment 90

Against it 75

So the amendment was agreed to.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, Ayes 103.

Tuesday, January 12.

Mr. Wilkin, from the committee on pensions, reported, without amendment, the Senates' bill for the relief of Aquila Giles; which was committed.

Mr. T. M. Nelson, from the committee on military affairs, delivered in the following report:

"The committee on military affairs, to whom was referred that part of the President's message, of the 17th November, 1818, which relates to the proceedings of the court martial, in the trial of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, and to the conduct of the war against the Seminole Indians, Report:

That after a perusal of the various documents submitted to congress, on the subject of the Seminole war, they find much difficulty in separating the responsibility of the commanding officer to his government, from the obligations of the United States to Spain: But, as the occupation and capture of Pensacola and St. Marks, are subjects of negotiation and correspondence, at this time, between the two governments, and as the committee on foreign relations will, probably, consi-

der this part of the President's message more immediately connected with their branch of the subject, your committee will confine themselves, in this report, to the trial and execution of Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert C. Ambrister.

On the 26th April, 1818, a general order issued at head quarters, fort St. Marks, by major general Andrew Jackson, signed by colonel Robert Butler, adjutant general, detailing "a special court martial, to meet at 12 o'clock, A. M. for the purpose of investigating charges exhibited against A. Arbuthnot, R. C. Ambrister, and such others who are similarly situated as may be brought before it."

Your committee do not deem it necessary to attach to their report the proceedings of that court, as every member of the house has been furnished with several copies, to which reference can be made.

Your committee can find no law of the United States authorizing a trial, before a military court, for such offences as are alleged against Arbuthnot and Ambrister, (except so much of the second charge, as charges Arbuthnot with "acting as a spy," of which part of the charge the court found him "not guilty") nor in the opinion of your committee does any usage authorize, or exigency appear, from the documents accompanying the report of the trial, which can justify the assumption and exercise, of power by the court martial, and the commanding general, on this occasion. It is admitted, as a maxim of the law of nations, that, when the war is with a savage nation which observes no rules, and never gives quarter, we may punish them in the person of any of their people, whom we may take, (belonging to the number of them,) and endeavor by this rigorous proceeding to force them to respect the laws of humanity. Wherever severity is not absolutely necessary, mercy becomes a duty. In vain has your committee sought among the documents on the subject of the Seminole war for a shadow of necessity for the death of the prisoners arraigned before the court. The war was at an end, to all intents and purposes—the enemy's strong holds had been destroyed—many of them killed or taken prisoners, and the remainder, a feeble band, dispersed and scattered in every direction. The Spanish fort of St. Marks, which it was supposed, (and no doubt justly) had protected them, was also in our possession, and so entirely was the war considered to be terminated, that the Georgia militia, under general Glasscock, had returned to their homes. Then where was the absolute necessity which alone could warrant a departure from the exercise of that clemency, of which the United States has heretofore so justly boasted?

Your committee find, in the general order of the 29th April, in which general Jackson orders the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, this remarkable reason, intended as a justification of the executions, principally of Ambrister, but applying to both Arbuthnot and Ambrister: "it is an established principle of the law of nations, that any individual of a nation, making war against the citizen of another nation, they being at peace, forfeits his allegiance, and becomes an outlaw and a pirate." It may be asked by what system of interpretation the offences charged could be considered as piracies, which imply, in common acceptance, offences upon the high seas, of which the court could not assume cognizance; and it is equally difficult to understand the propriety of

the application of the term "outlaw," to the offenders—a term, which applies only to the relations of individuals with their *own* governments. It will not be pretended that La Fayette, who volunteered his services in the cause of America, in the war which established our independence, forfeited his allegiance, became an outlaw, and subjected himself to an ignominious death, had he fallen into the hands of the English. Or can it be believed that one voice would be heard in justification of Spain, if she were to execute such of our countrymen as she may make prisoners, while fighting the armies of the South American Patriots. And if these cases should not be considered of such a nature as to warrant a resort to so severe a measure, while they occurred with a people in a state of revolution, and considered by the parent countries to be in a state of rebellion, much less could these men, Arbuthnot and Ambrister, be considered liable to it, who were acting with a power acknowledged, and treated as sovereign and independent, by us.

Your committee beg leave to call your attention particularly to the case of R. C. Ambrister, who, after having been subjected to a trial before a court which had no cognizance or jurisdiction over the offences charged against him, was shot by order of the commanding general, contrary to the forms and usages of the army, and without regard to the finding of that court, which had been instituted as a guide for himself.

Your committee must here, in justice to their own feelings, express their extreme regret, that it has become their duty to disapprove the conduct of one who has, on a former occasion, so eminently contributed to the honor and defence of the nation, as has major general Jackson; but the more elevated station, the more exalted the character of the individual, the more necessary is it, by a reasonable, yet temperate expression of public opinion, through the constitutional organ, to prevent the recurrence of incidents at variance with the principles of our government and laws.

Nor can your committee forbear including in their strictures the court martial who sat on the trial of Arbuthnot and Ambrister. A court martial is a tribunal invested with limited jurisdiction, having for its guidance the same rules of evidence which govern courts of law; and yet Arbuthnot is refused by the court martial, before whom he was on trial for his life, the benefit of the testimony of Ambrister, who had not been put upon his trial at that time, and whose evidence would have been received by any court of law as legal, if not credible. Many other exceptions might be made to the evidence recorded in these proceedings: particularly to the question put to the witness Hambly, viz: "Do you believe the Seminoles would have commenced the business of murder and depredation on the white inhabitants, had it not been at the instigation of the prisoner [Arbuthnot] and a promise, on his part, of British protection?" Answer. "I do not believe they would, without they had been assured of British protection. A leading question is expressly forbidden to be used by a court martial, by Macomb on martial law, and of which the court must have been apprized, as it is a work common in the army, and usually referred to by every court martial when in session; and the question was calculated to elicit an expression of opinion and belief from the witness, rather than

a statement of facts, upon which alone could the court act. Hearsay evidence, in a case of life and death, your committee will venture to assert, was never before received against the accused in any court of this country, and yet on the face of the record of the proceedings of the court martial, hearsay testimony is admitted, which had been received from an Indian, who, if present, would not have been allowed to give evidence himself.

After mature deliberation, your committee beg leave to submit the following resolution:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the United States disapproves the proceedings in the trial and execution of Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert C. Ambrister.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the committee on the public lands were instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the time for issuing and locating military land warrants, for services rendered during the war of the revolution.

On motion of Mr. Herbert, the secretary of the treasury was instructed to report to the House a statement of the debts, credits, and funds, of all the banks in the District of Columbia, not embraced in the terms of the resolution of the house a few days ago.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting the annual report of the commissioners, with sundry statements in relation to the navy pension fund, which was ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker laid before the house another letter from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting sundry papers, being copies of letters and extracts of letters to the commanding naval officers, which contain all the instructions which have issued from the Navy Department in pursuance of the act of Congress prohibiting the importation of slaves, passed on the 2d day of March, 1807, in obedience to a resolution of the house on the 4th instant.

The bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year 1819, was read the third time; and the question on its passage was decided, by yeas and nays, in the affirmative, by a vote of 107 to 57.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Pitkin in the chair, on the bill "respecting the military establishment."

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, with a wish to try the principle of the bill, to which he was wholly opposed, moved to strike out the first section of the bill.

On the suggestion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, a letter from the Secretary of War to the military committee was read, recommending the adoption of the provisions of the bill, as necessary to equalize the standing of different corps, and for the purpose of enforcing economy in the public expenditure.

Mr. Desha supported the motion of Mr. Williams, and went into an examination, section by section, of the provisions of the bill, which he disapproved as generally unnecessary, but some parts of them more so than others. He particularly denied that economy would be promoted by a bill which proposes so great an increase of expenditure.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, replied to Mr. Desha's objections, arguing that true economy consisted in the creation of efficiency, and of rigid responsibility in all the departments of the government.

The question was taken on striking out the first section of the bill: and decided in the affirmative, 73 to 52.

The committee then rose.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, the bill was ordered to lie on the table.

The House resumed the regular order of the day, and went into a committee of the whole, Mr. H. Nelson in the chair, on the bill for the relief of Kinsey and French.

Some discussion took place on the merits of their case, as well as on that of Charles S. Leonard, for whose relief it was proposed, by Mr. Rich, to add a section to this bill, comprehending the said Leonard in its provisions. This was finally agreed to in committee, and subsequently by the house, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The speaker communicated to the house a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a statement of the debts, credits, and funds, of the banks of the District of Columbia, rendered in obedience to a resolution of this house, of the 7th instant.

Wednesday, January 13.

Mr. Rhea, from the committee of pensions and revolutionary claims, reported a bill to provide for the payment of the pensions of persons under guardianship, to their guardians; which was twice read; when

Mr. Mills moved first to recommit the bill, but subsequently to lay it on the table, as there were cases which ought to be embraced in its provisions, which it did not now contain.

This motion, after some opposition by Mr. Rhea, prevailed; and the bill was laid on the table.

Mr. Robertson, from the committee on private land claims, made a report on the petition of Nicholas Jarrott, accompanied by a bill for his relief: which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Middleton, from the committee on that part of the President's Message which relates to the illicit introduction of slaves, reported a bill "in addition to the act for the prohibition of the slave trade;" which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Pindall, it was

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing a further time to the guardians of the minor children of deceased soldiers, to relinquish their claims to bounty lands for five years' half pay, as provided by the second section of an act, entitled "An act making further provision for military services during the late war, and for other purposes," approved the 16th April, 1816.

On motion of Mr. Crowell, it was

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing by law the friendly chiefs and warriors of the Creek Indians to sell to the United States all their right and claim to such lands as have or may be reserved and located for them in the Alabama territory, in obedience to the first article of the treaty of the ninth day of August, 1814, making the reservation, and the law of Congress authorizing the location.

On motion of Mr. Herrick, it was

Resolved, That the committee on roads and canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the appointment of commissioners to survey, lay out, and mark a road from the west bank of the Ohio river, oppo-

site the point where the Cumberland road strikes the same, through St. Clairsville, to Columbus, from thence to the western line of the state of Ohio, in a direction to St. Louis, in Missouri territory.

The bill from the Senate to enable the people of the Alabama territory to form a state government, and the bill to suspend for a further limited time, the sale or forfeiture of lands, for failure in completing the payments, were received from the Senate, severally twice read, and committed.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Adam Kinsey, Thomas French, and Charles L. Leonard, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The bill for the relief of Benjamin Poole, the bill for the relief of the heirs of Thomas Turner, deceased, and the bill for the relief of Henry Davis, severally passed through committees of the whole, Messrs. Smith, of Md. Pleasants, and Bassett, the chairmen, and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill authorizing the payment of a sum of money, to the officers and crews of gun boats 149 and 154, was taken up in committee, Mr. Desha in the chair, the blank filled with 5482 dollars, and the bill ordered by the House to be engrossed.

The House then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Pleasants in the chair, on the bill for the relief of Kenzie and Forsyth (Indian traders, and providing them indemnification for a quantity of whiskey and powder, which they allowed to be destroyed to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy, during the late war with G. Britain.)

After some discussion of this bill, in which Mr. Rich and Mr. Storrs opposed, and Mr. Scott supported it;

The committee proceeded to take up the bill for the relief of John B. C. Lucas and Clement B. Penrose (allowing them additional compensation as land commissioners in Louisiana.)

This bill created also considerable discussion; after which,

The committee rose and reported the bills to the House; the former of which was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and the latter, after much additional discussion of its merits, was indefinitely postponed.

Thursday, January 14.

Mr. Smith, of Maryland, reported a bill to amend the act "to continue in force the act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, and for other purposes," passed the 3d day of March, 1817; which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the committee of commerce and manufactures were discharged from the further consideration of the resolution instructing them to inquire into the expediency of fixing a standard of weights and measures.

Mr. Bloomfield reported a bill for the relief of Bartlett Hinds, which was twice read and committed.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting a statement of the expenditure and application of the money drawn from the Treasury by him, during the year ending on the 30th September last, under the appropriations for the year 1818, and of the unexpended balance of former appropriations for the military establishment, remaining in the treasury on the first of October last; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of War, made in obedience to a resolution of this house, of the 10th of April last, instructing him to report a plan for the application of such means as are within the power of Congress to the purpose of opening and constructing such roads and canals as may deserve and require the aid of government, with a view to military operations in time of war; and also, a statement of the works, of the nature above mentioned, which have been commenced, the progress that has been made, and the means and prospects of their completion: which was ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker also laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the annual statement of the district tonnage, on the 31st of December, 1817; which was also laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Va. it was

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the house (unless the communication of the information be, in his opinion, incompatible with the public interest) whether any application has been made by any of the independent governments in South America, to have a minister or consul general accredited by the government of the United States, and what was the answer given to such application.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Benjamin Poole, was read a third time.

[This bill proposes to indemnify B. Poole, an assistant assessor in one of the collection districts of N. Hampshire, for the amount of a judgment given against him in the Supreme Court of the State of New-Hampshire, in consequence of his having levied a tax on the property of a clergyman, under sanction of the opinion of the Attorney of the United States, of the District Court, and of the Attorney General, that the real property of clergymen was liable to the direct tax.]

Considerable debate took place on this bill, principally on the nature of the judgment, which, it was contended, by Mr. Mills and others, had been rendered on a case made up, without a trial of the facts by the jury, in such a manner as to authorize Congress to interfere. This objection was answered by Messrs Clagett, Livermore, and others; and

The bill passed without a division, and was sent to the Senate.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Henry Davis; for the relief of Kenzie and Forsyth; authorizing the payment of a sum of money to the officers and crews of gun boats numbered 149 and 154, were severally read a third time, passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Navy Department, in pursuance of a resolution of the House, communicating certain information in respect to Navy Hospitals; which was laid on the table.

The House then, in prosecution of the Orders of the Day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Maryland, in the chair, on the bill to alter the time of holding the circuit courts in the Southern District of New York, and for other purposes.

This bill passed this House at the last session, was sent to the Senate, and passed by that body with amendments; and, in this state, presented to the House a new question, under the rule which

continues the business of the last session over to this.

It was contended by Mr. Clay, that it was for the House to proceed to act on the bill, without reference to what might in this respect be the rule of the Senate; and by Messrs. Lowndes, Nelson, Taylor and Pitkin, that this bill, having actually passed both Houses, except in regard to an amendment, could not be considered as comprehended within the rule.

The discussion resulted in the committee's rising, leave to sit again being refused, and the bill being indefinitely postponed, by a vote of 56 to 51.

The bill for the relief of the Marquis De Vieu, and that for the relief of M. Poire, both aide de camps of the Marquis La Fayette during the revolutionary war, passed through a committee of the whole, and, after a few remarks from Mr. Harrison, in their favor, were considered as engrossed for a third reading.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the important bill, reported at the last session, for the organization and discipline of the Militia of the United States.

The bill was read through; when the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again, leaving this the business of course for tomorrow.

VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES.

NORTH-WEST EXPEDITION TO THE POLE.

From a late English Paper.

The Isabella and the Alexander, discovery ships, are safely arrived at Brassa Sound, Lerwich, all well; neither ship having lost a man, nor a man on the sick list.

Captain Ross has completely succeeded in exploring every part of Baffin's Bay, and, with the exception of errors in the latitudes and longitudes, of verifying the statements of that old and able navigator whose name it bears; and of ascertaining that no passage exists between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean through Davis' Strait and Baffin's Bay, the whole being found to be surrounded by high land extending to the north as far as lat. 77, 55, and long. 76 W. and in the 74th degree of lat. stretching westward as far as 84 W. longitude.

They traced the same the whole way down to the Cape Walsingham of Davis, which they ascertained to lie in lat. 66 and long. 60—from hence they steered for Resolution Island, and stood homeward.

They have made many curious observations and discoveries, of which, perhaps, will not be considered as the least interesting, that of a nation being found to inhabit the Arctic Regions, between the latitudes of 76 and 78, who thought that the world to the South was all ice; that generation had succeeded generation of a people who had never tasted the fruits of the earth, had no idea of a Supreme Being, who never had an enemy, and whose chiefs had hitherto supposed themselves monarchs of the universe.

There now only remains to be discovered the termination, if it has one, of Middleton's Repulse Bay, and, a few degrees to the Northward of it, to determine whether Greenland be an island or joins America, and this might with the greatest ease be done from the northernmost station of the Hudson's Bay Company in any one season.

BANKS.

A statement has appeared in the National Intelligencer, and has been republished in the newspapers generally, purporting to be extracted from a Report from the Treasury Department, respecting the state and condition of the Bank of the United States on the 30th of September last.

The statement of debts due to the Bank of the United States, is introduced with the following remarks:

"The amount of debts due "from Banks paying specie" to the Bank, and its several branches, and the notes of Banks paying specie, on hand, after deducting therefrom the amounts due by the Bank and its branches to the said Banks, respectively, is thus stated:

At Philadelphia

\$1,745,375 73."

From this statement, a belief prevails, that the State Banks of this city were indebted that amount to the Bank of the United States, on the 30th of September last. To counteract this impression, and to give the public correct information on the subject, the undersigned cashiers of the city Banks, and of the Bank of the Northern Liberties, met at the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank on the 2d of January, 1819, and reported the balances of the accounts of their respective Institutions, with the Bank of the United States, as they stood on the 30th of September last; from which it appeared, that taking the several debts against the Bank of the United States, and giving it the several credits to which it was entitled with the Banks aforesaid, the Bank of the United States on that day, was collectively indebted to them the sum of \$49,829 14.

HENRY DRINKER,
ELIHU CHAUNCEY,
QUINTIN CAMPBELL,
HENRY KUHLE,
SAMUEL WILCOX,
J. WILLIAMS,
D. MANDEVILLE,
THOMAS WILSON.

(Signed,)

Philadelphia, Jan. 2. 1819.

✎ Editors who have republished the statement from the National Intelligencer, will please to insert the above in their respective papers.

[Note.—The National Intelligencer, we believe, copied from the Documents laid before Congress. The mother Bank of the United States at Philadelphia, is the proper source of reply to the foregoing.]

EDITOR'S CABINET.

CITY OF WASHINGTON,
January 16, 1819.

History of Congress.—In order to understand the nature of the discussion which arose in the House of Representatives on the 6th instant, upon the bill making appropriations for the support of the military establishment of the United States for the year 1819, it is necessary to recall to the reader's recollection the fact that President MONROE, in his message at the opening of the first session of the fifteenth Congress, informed that body that he was of opinion that the constitution forbid his sanction of any bill appropriating money for the construction of roads and canals. The House, during the same session, in some sort, took fire at this intimation, and adopted a report from one of its

committees, asserting an opinion directly opposite to that of the President. Here the business rested. But, it seems, the gentlemen who most strenuously advocated that report have been on the watch to detect the executive in inconsistency. They had noticed that various roads were made, under the denomination of *military roads*, and that the expense of forming them had been paid for, from time to time, out of some fund not distinctly specified. When the appropriation bill in question was taken up, therefore, Mr. CLAY, in a pointed manner, called upon the chairman of the committee of ways and means to state to the House what particular item it was in the bill which was to be applied to the extra pay of soldiers for working on roads. The chairman (Gen. SAM. SMITH, of Maryland) could not point it out; and there he sat, satirically buffeted by the friends of internal improvement, as they call themselves, in sad perplexity. Mr. PHILIP P. BARBOUR, of Virginia, had been, on a former occasion, a decided adherent to the President's opinion; but seemed willing to vote for the military appropriation bill, road-work and all. Mr. Clay, with his usual quickness, perceiving this inconsistency, very sarcastically observed, that he did not want the information so much for himself as for his honorable friend from Virginia, (meaning Mr. Barbour.) This startled the latter gentleman, who defended himself with spirit, and was replied to in a very neat style by Mr. HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER. On the following day, the chairman of the committee of ways and means produced a written explanation from the Secretary of War, who pointed to the item embracing the intended expenditure for road-work, and informed the chairman, for the information of the House, that if it was meant to separate that sum from the rest, 10,000 dollars were the amount contemplated for the object. The friends of internal improvement, thereupon, procured these 10,000 dollars to be inserted in the bill as a specific item, and in that shape it passed the House by a large majority. Their object appears to be to bring the President's opinion practically to the test; so as to compel him to reject the bill or to act inconsistently with his own principle: And should the bill pass the Senate in its present form, he will be actually placed in that dilemma. Several attempts were made in the House to mask the question by clothing it in equivocal words; such as saying "for *working on*," &c. instead of "the *construction of*," &c. But nothing would satisfy the majority but the plainest terms; and we think they were right in that particular. Not that we entirely concur with these "*friends of internal improvement*," as they proudly style themselves; for we believe, with President Monroe, that the framers of the consti-

tion never intended that the funds of the general government should be expended upon roads and canals. But we conceive, at the same time, that those who are of our way of thinking ought to be consistent: They should pursue with strictness the principle which they have, in this respect, avowed, and not do that indirectly, the doing of which in a direct manner they have declared the constitution does not sanction. We are sorry to say, that, in this instance, Messrs. Clay and Tucker have greatly the advantage. There is, in fact, a difficulty in the case, arising, as we presume, from the double governments prevailing among us—state and national. The sooner the question is settled the better; and the best method of settling it, as we think, is to submit it at once, by way of amendment to the constitution, for the consideration of the state legislatures.

This military appropriation bill, which, in many respects, has had a rough time in the House, gave rise also to a thrust or two at General Jackson. Only to think what different effects an Indian war has upon different constitutions! Mr. MERRILL, of Virginia, cannot sleep upon his pillow (as he told the House) for the untidiness occasioned in his head by the incidents of the Seminole campaign; whilst General SAM. SMITH, of Maryland, is not at all (as he says) disturbed in his slumbers by them. One honorable gentleman was for cutting off General Jackson by reducing the number of Major Generals; another, probably not with the same view, is for reducing the army. Such are the conceptions which the military appropriation bill either revived or brought forth at the moment.

General Jackson, however, is not to be let off with so slender a notice. The committee on military affairs has reported, pro and con, with respect to his conduct. Mr. THOMAS M. NELSON, on Tuesday last, brought in a report unfriendly to the general. Mr. RICHARD M. JOHNSON brought in another approving his conduct: and they have been both referred to a committee of the whole House on the state of the union, and it is expected will be discussed on Monday next, and for many days in succession. This acceptance of contradictory reports is a very unusual course, and will form, we fear, a bad legislative precedent. The report, or rather protest, in favor of General Jackson, was, in truth, not in the least necessary. The unfriendly report was only carried by a majority of one, as we are told, in the committee on military affairs; and it is so feeble in point of argument, that we doubt whether it will not prove, in the sequel, from the ease with which it may be refuted, more advantageous to the General than the one professing to be friendly to him. What, for example, can be said of that reasoning, as appli-

cable to criminal jurisprudence, which asserts as a principle, that after murders have been committed, the murderers ought not to be punished, because, there being no cause to fear other murders, there is no "absolute necessity" for it? Are not all punishments intended to operate *in terrorem* as to the future? And what would be thought of any government, or officer of a government, that should, after detecting a murderer, let him run at large, *unclapt of justice*, because, by superior force, the remainder of society were protected from his outrages? We have not room this week to enlarge on the subject; but we shall pay our respects to this report more in form next week; not doubting, in the mean time, that the report will be most severely lashed in the House of Representatives.

Delphine's Departure.—The first part of the second volume of this invaluable work has been just presented to the public. It contains the Portraits and Biographies of Samuel Adams, George Clinton, Henry Laurens, Benjamin Franklin, Francis Hopkinson, and Robert Morris.

The styles of the several engravings are different. That of Adams, by Goodhue and Eggott, from the original of Copley, is in the dotted style.

That of Clinton, by Matherick, from the original of Ames, is in line engraving, of the middle French period.

Laurens is also in line, something in the style of the German school. It is by Nagle, from a painting of the elder Peale.

Franklin is in the dotted style, by Longere, said to be from an original by Martin. It has a very rich appearance, and presents an elegance of expression which we have never heretofore seen in a head of Franklin.

Hopkinson, by J. Heath, from an original by Pine, is in the dotted style.

Morris is likewise by Heath, and also from an original by Pine, in the dotted style.

The paper and typography of the work are beautiful, and are an incontestable proof of the progress of the arts in the United States.

This Repository of the Features and Lives of distinguished Americans, has a powerful, and, indeed, a paramount, claim on the patronage of the community. It unites, in a classical and familiar manner, the advantages of the Statue, of the Picture, and of History. It is a record of virtue, patriotism, and exalted talents; bringing home, as it were, to the bosom of families, the forms and the ideas which have contributed so much to human liberty and happiness, and which may still continue, thus rescued, as it were, from the vapours of tradition and the oblivion of the grave, to inspire the sons and daughters of Columbia with those magnanimous sentiments, the perpetuation of which is indispensable to the preservation of the blessings of freedom.

The Biographies, in general, are well written; some, however, much better than others. The engravings and the literary composition of the lives contained in the three numbers already published, must have cost Mr. Delphine a great deal of money; and it is not without pain we have understood that his expenditures have been considerably more than his receipts. But perseverance, we are persuaded, will crown his efforts with success and emolument. There is too much generous feeling in the hearts of the American people to allow a national work, at once splendid and useful, to be discontinued for want of pecuniary encouragement. Whilst we pay homage to the great qualities of the Heroes of the Revolution, and to those of the illustrious men who have succeeded them, we are bound, in interest and in honor, to consecrate their well-earned fame by every rational means within our power.

No. 4.]

P.

Con

Report
40,
tive
60,
Cust
fact
ver
Proc
HistMr. Sp
inves
Unit
The
and to
of the
thereo
its char
report-That
the cor
person
as a fur
they in
cashier
tendan
clerks
made a
at the
cific in
the bo
ficient.
great l
care, th
which
will be
This in
extract
of the
books
nesses,
institutThe
source
oes ma
teresti
their in
was re
avoid
and to
practic
among
invest
thems
to the
condu
nected
ter. A
cerns
quiry
teresti
of the
cie at
made p
on eac